

Fig. 7 - Traffic pattern: entire network available

Legend:  
--- International boundary  
⊙ Railway operating division  
←  $\frac{9}{12}$  Capacity: 12 each way per day. Required flow of 9 per day toward destinations (in direction of arrow) with equivalent number of returning trains in opposite direction  
All capacities in  $\sqrt{1000}$ 's of tons } each way per day  
Origins: Divisions 2, 3W, 3E, 2S, 13N, 13S, 12, 52 (USSR), and Roumania  
Destinations: Divisions 3, 6, 9 (Poland); B (Czechoslovakia); and 2, 3 (Austria)  
Alternative destinations: Germany or East Germany  
Note IIX at Division 9, Poland

Two problems:

Given directed graph  
 $G = (V, E)$  + two vertices

$s \neq t$   
↑ source      ↑ Target/sink

# Maximum Flow

$(s, t)$ -flow  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  that satisfies conservation constraints:

$$\forall v \in V, v \neq s, t$$

$$\sum_w f(u \rightarrow v) = \sum_w f(v \rightarrow w)$$

↑  
Total in = total out

If  $u \rightarrow v \in E$ , say  $f(u \rightarrow v) = 0$

$$\partial f(v) := \sum_w f(v \rightarrow w) - \sum_u f(u \rightarrow v)$$

$$\Rightarrow \partial f(v) = 0 \quad \forall v \neq s, t$$

The value of  $f$  is

$$|f| := \partial f(s) = \sum_w f(s \rightarrow w) - \sum_w f(w \rightarrow s)$$

$$\sum_v \partial f(v) = \partial f(s) + \partial f(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \partial f(s) + \partial f(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \partial f(t) = -|f|$$

Also give a capacity function

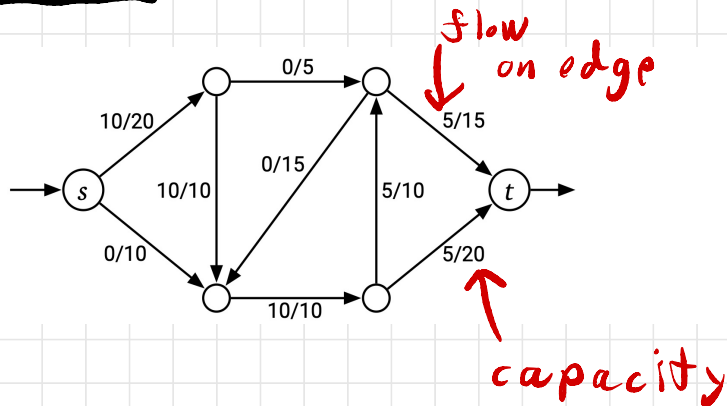
$$c: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$$

$f$  is feasible wrt  $c$  if

$$f(e) \leq c(e) \quad \forall e$$

$f$  saturates  $e$  if  $f(e) = c(e)$

$f$  avoids  $e$  if  $f(e) = 0$



Maximum flow problem:

find a max value  $(s,t)$ -flow that is feasible wrt  $c$ .

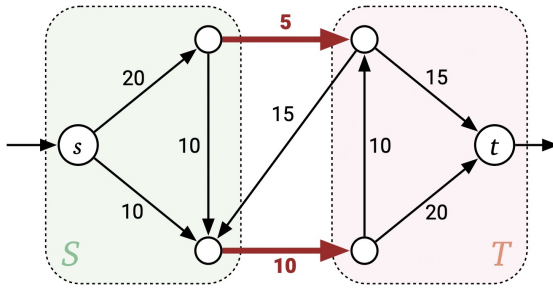


An  $(s, t)$ -cut is a partition  
of  $V$  into two subsets  
( $S \cup T = V + S \cap T = \emptyset$ )  
 $s, t. \quad s \in S + t \in T.$

Given  $c: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ , the  
capacity of cut  $(S, T)$   
is sum of capacities for  
edges from  $S$  to  $T$

$$\|S, T\| := \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{w \in T} c(v \rightarrow w)$$

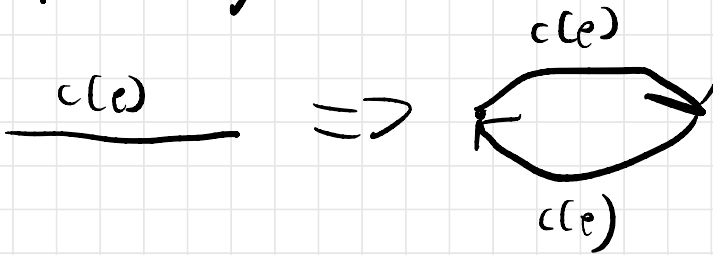
(if  $v \rightarrow w \notin E$ , say  $c(v \rightarrow w) = 0$ )



$$|S, T| = 15$$

minimum cut problem:

find  $(s, t)$ -cut of minimum capacity



Lemma: The value of any  $(s,t)$ -flow  $f$  is at most the capacity of any  $(s,t)$ -cut  $(S, T)$ .

$$|f| = \partial f(s) \quad \text{[by definition]}$$

$$= \sum_{v \in S} \partial f(v) \quad \text{[conservation constraint]}$$

$$= \sum_{v \in S} \sum_w f(v \rightarrow w) - \sum_{v \in S} \sum_u f(u \rightarrow v) \quad \text{[math, definition of } \partial]$$

$$= \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{w \notin S} f(v \rightarrow w) - \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{u \notin S} f(u \rightarrow v) \quad \text{[removing edges from } S \text{ to } S]$$

$$= \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{w \in T} f(v \rightarrow w) - \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{u \in T} f(u \rightarrow v) \quad \text{[definition of cut]}$$

$$\leq \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{w \in T} f(v \rightarrow w) \quad \text{[because } f(u \rightarrow v) \geq 0]$$

$$\leq \sum_{v \in S} \sum_{w \in T} c(v \rightarrow w) \quad \text{[because } f(v \rightarrow w) \leq c(v \rightarrow w)]$$

$$= \|S, T\| \quad \text{[by definition]}$$

So ...  $|f| = \|S, T\|$  if and only if  $f$  saturates all  $S \rightarrow T$  edges & avoids all  $T \rightarrow S$  edges.

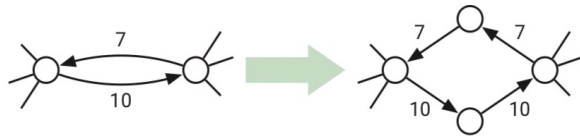
$\Rightarrow f$  is maximum value  $\dagger$   
 $(S, T)$  is minimum capacity

# Maxflow Mincut Theorem

[Ford-Fulkerson '54; Elias, Feinstein, Shannon '56]:

The value of the max flow = capacity min cut!

Assume the graph is reduced:  
one of  $u \rightarrow v$  or  $v \rightarrow u$  not in  $E$



Suppose we have a feasible  
(s,t)-flow  $f$ .

Residual capacities w.r.t  $f$

$$c_f : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$c_f(u \rightarrow v) =$$

$$c(u \rightarrow v) - f(u \rightarrow v) \quad \text{if } u \rightarrow v \in E$$

how much we can undo

$$\rightarrow f(v \rightarrow u) \quad \text{if } v \rightarrow u \in E$$

$$0$$

o.w.

$$f(u \rightarrow v) \geq 0$$

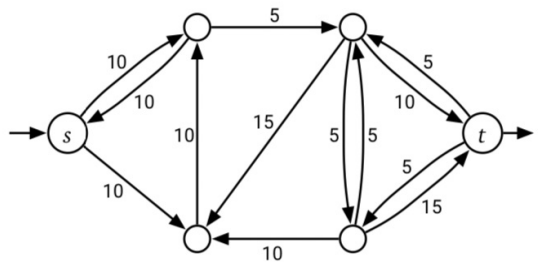
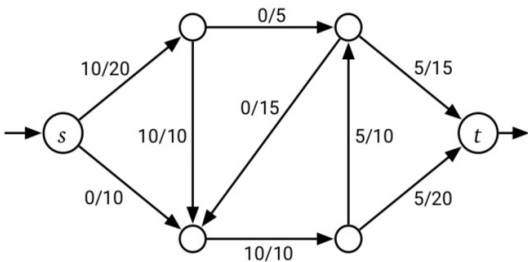
$$f(u \rightarrow v) \leq c(u \rightarrow v)$$

So  $c_f$  is non-negative

$f(u \rightarrow v)$  may be  $> 0$  even if  $u \rightarrow v \notin E$

residual graph  $G_f = (V, E_f)$

$E_f$ : pairs  $u \rightarrow v$  s.t.  $c_f(u \rightarrow v) > 0$   
positive



Suppose  $\exists$  path  $P$  from  
 $s$  to  $t$  in  $G_f$ .

augmenting  
path

max amount  
of flow we can "push"

$$F := \sum_{u \rightarrow v \in P} c_f(u \rightarrow v)$$

Define  $f' : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

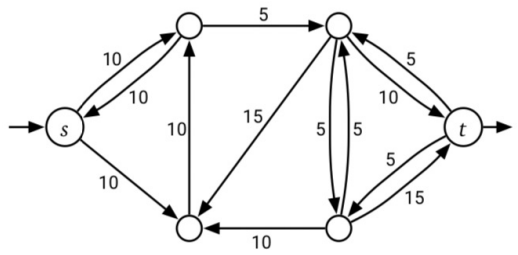
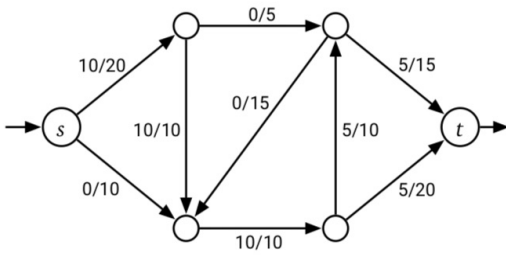
$$f'(u \rightarrow v) =$$

$$f(u \rightarrow v) + F \quad \text{if } u \rightarrow v \in P$$

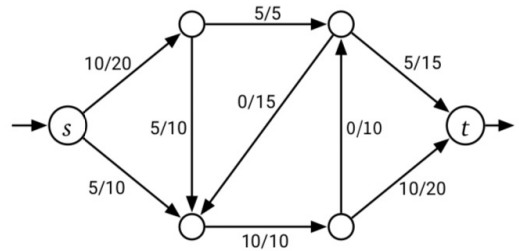
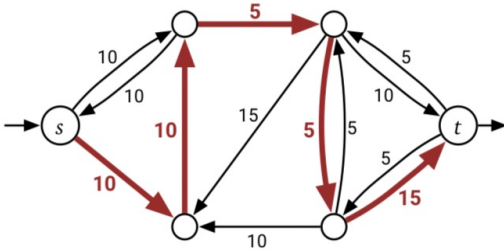
$$f(u \rightarrow v) - F \quad \text{if } v \rightarrow u \in P$$

$$f(u \rightarrow v) \quad \text{o.w.}$$





$$F = 5$$



$f'$  is a feasible  $(s, t)$ -flow

$|S'| = |S| + F \Rightarrow F$  was not  
max value

Suppose o.w. that  $s$  cannot reach  $t$  in  $G_f$ .

$S$ : vertices reachable from  $s$  in  $G_f$

$T: V \setminus S$ .

$(S, T)$  is an  $(s, t)$ -cut.

$\forall u \in S, v \in T$  ← saturated

If  $u \rightarrow v \in E$ , then

$$0 = c_f(u \rightarrow v) = c(u \rightarrow v) - f(u \rightarrow v)$$

If  $v \rightarrow u \in E$ , then ← avoided

$$0 = c_f(u \rightarrow v) = f(v \rightarrow u)$$

$$\Rightarrow |s| = \|S, T\|$$

$\uparrow$   
max $\uparrow$   
min